

worry, too, about the “intellectual infrastructure,” he says, as Americans who know how to make nuclear weapons either retire or die. And he notes that the “physical infrastructure” is now “well over 60 years” old. Some of it “comes out of the Manhattan Project.”

The U.S. is the only major nuclear power that is not modernizing its weapons. “The Russians have a shelf life for their weapons of about 10 years so they are continually replacing” them. The British and the French “stay up to date.” And the Chinese and the Indians “continue to add to their stockpiles.” But in the U.S., Congress won’t even so much as fund R&D for the Reliable Replacement Warhead. “The RRW has become a toxic term on Capitol Hill,” Mr. Schlesinger says. Give it a new name, he seems to be suggesting, and try again to get Congress to fund it. “We need to be much more vigorous about life-extension programs” for the weapons.

Finally, we chat about Mr. Schlesinger’s nearly half-century as a nuclear strategist. Are we living in a world where the use of nuclear weapons is more likely than it was back then? “The likelihood of a nuclear exchange has substantially gone away,” he says. That’s the good news. “However, the likelihood of a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States” is greater.

During his RAND years, in the 1960s, Mr. Schlesinger recalls that “we were working on mitigating the possible effects [of a nuclear attack] through civil defense, which, may I say parenthetically, we should be working on now with respect, certainly, to the possibility of a terrorist weapon used against the United States. . . . We should have a much more rapid response capability. . . . We’re not as well organized as we should be to respond.”

Mr. Schlesinger sees another difference between now and when he started in this business: “Public interest in our strategic posture has faded over the decades,” he says. “In the Cold War, it was a most prominent subject. Now, much of the public is barely interested in it. And that has been true of the Congress as well,” creating what he delicately refers to as “something of a stalemate in expenditures.”

He’s raising the alarm. Congress, the administration and Americans ignore it at their peril.

[From The Wall Street Journal, Mar. 28, 2014]

JAMES R. SCHLESINGER: A DEFENSE STRATEGIST WITHOUT ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE WORLD’S THREATS.

One can only imagine the wry, bemused expression that would have passed across former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger at the irony of his death this past week at age 85. Jim Schlesinger, the ultimate Cold Warrior, left the public stage at the moment his successors in Washington are arguing among themselves whether Vladimir Putin of Russia, with some 50,000 troops arrayed on Ukraine’s border and a nuclear weapons arsenal in his pocket, is or is not a threat to the interests of the United States.

The phrase “he does not suffer fools gladly” wasn’t invented for Jim Schlesinger, though some in the Washington policy-making fraternity could have been forgiven for thinking so. Nuclear strategist, defense secretary to Presidents Nixon and Ford and then the first secretary of energy under Jimmy Carter, Schlesinger puffed on an ever-present pipe and offered unvarnished and sometimes uncomfortable advice through some of the most difficult events of the Cold War era.

Equivocation wasn’t a word he recognized. In the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, with the Soviet

Union supplying some of the Arab countries, the Schlesinger Defense Department airlifted supplies to Israel, a U.S. ally.

Above all, Schlesinger believed that the U.S. should do nothing to put its preeminence in national security at risk. He pushed hard for increased military spending and voiced doubts about the terms of nuclear-arms negotiations with the Soviet Union in the 1970s.

He believed in the idea of military deterrence, and that included the U.S. nuclear deterrent. In a typically blunt assertion during a Weekend Interview with the Journal in 2009, Schlesinger said, “Nuclear weapons are used every day.” They are used “to deter our potential foes and provide reassurance to the allies to whom we offer our protection.”

Schlesinger’s robust clarity about the nature of threat and adversaries is out of favor in Washington these days. Foreign-policy tastes now run more toward “nuance.” Jim Schlesinger, a card-carrying economist, had nothing against nuance. He simply wanted to do whatever is necessary to make sure the U.S. never ended up on the wrong side of it. That point of view is missed.

RECOGNIZING JAMES BEN MAGEL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retiring Councilman of Pleasanton, Texas, James Ben Magel. He has served the citizens of the city of Pleasanton well, and is now ending his tenure after 18 years. His tireless efforts have improved the community, and he has served to better the development and progress of Pleasanton.

“Jimmy” Magel was born in Kenedy, Texas. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Pleasanton. After graduating from Pleasanton High School in 1966, he attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a degree in Pharmacy in 1971. He returned to Pleasanton and worked at Henry’s Pharmacy. In 1974 he began working for Rexco Pharmacy, which he now owns. In 1970 he married Bernice Tieken. Together, they share two children and one grandchild. Currently, he serves as President of the Pleasanton Ex-Students Association and is a member of the St. John Lutheran Church Council in Jourdanton. One of his proudest achievements was earning the rank of Eagle Scout. A loving husband and father, Mr. Magel has been a devoted public servant and community leader.

As Councilman, Mr. Magel has played an integral role in leading change within the Pleasanton community. Particularly, Mr. Magel paved the way for multiple construction projects, such as the construction of a public works facility, the new police department, the expansion of Pleasanton City Hall, a new civic center and library. He was also instrumental in the assembly of the Regional Water Waste Collection Line and various other infrastructure projects. Mr. Magel’s commitment to the maintenance of public buildings and infrastructure has helped the city of Pleasanton continue to be a remarkable place to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. James “Jimmy” Ben Magel, retiring Councilman of Pleasanton. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly

impacted the quality of life for the people of the city.

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN DIX

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lincoln Dix of Staples Advantage in Urbandale, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lincoln in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Dix for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Lincoln on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 165 and “aye” on rollcall No. 166, supporting the passage of the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of March 24, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall No. 136—On final passage of H.R. 3060—“yea”; rollcall No. 137—On final passage of H.R.1813—“yea”; rollcall No. 138—H.R. 2824—Lowenthal Amendment—“yea”; rollcall No. 139—H.R. 2824—Cartwright Amendment—“yea”; rollcall No. 140—H.R. 2824—On motion to recommit with instructions—“yea”; rollcall No. 141—On final passage of H.R. 2824—“nay”; rollcall No. 142—H. Res. 524—On ordering the previous question on the rule—“nay”; rollcall No. 143—